

The NICHD Connection

June 2018

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EDITOR IN CHIEF

Shana R. Spindler, PhD
Shana.Spindler@gmail.com

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Nichole Swan

FELLOWS RETREAT PHOTOS

Jeremy Swan

BACKGROUND PHOTOGRAPHY

See [Credits page](#) online

CONTRIBUTORS

Suna Gulay, PhD
Amrita Mandal, PhD
Adrienne T. Perkins
Kelly Tomins
Christa Ventresca
Zelia Worman, PhD

Fourteenth Annual Fellows Retreat Recap

The NICHD Fourteenth Annual Meeting of Postdoctoral, Clinical, and Visiting Fellows and Graduate Students took place on April 20, 2018, at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. After a behind the scenes look into the NICHD Office of the Scientific Director by the Scientific Director himself, Dr. Constantine Stratakis, the day kicked off with a keynote by science policy expert Dr. Yvette Seger. Next, fellows participated in ten round table career discussions (see [May issue](#) for a recap), learned insightful career tips from Dr. Ryan Phillip of the Office of Intramural Training and Education, and ended the day with four outstanding fellow research updates and a poster session.

We are excited to bring you the 2018 Annual Fellows Retreat recap, written by our very own NICHD fellows. Enjoy!

Herding Cats for Science: Dr. Yvette Seger's Career in Policy

BY ZELIA WORMAN, PhD

The Keynote address at the 2018 NICHD Fellows Retreat showcased **Dr. Yvette Seger**, Director of Science Policy at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), who shared with us her eventful journey into science policy and described her day-to-day life. Her talk, entitled "Pipettes to Policy: Transitioning Skills Learned at the Bench into a Career Advocating for Science" focused on how fellows can leverage their laboratory skills to advocate for science. Although Dr. Seger has an impressive biography, she prefers to focus not on her accomplishments but rather her story.



Yvette Seger, PhD

"At the heart of it all," as she put it, Dr. Seger came from an Ohio blue-collar family, where voting was engrained in her early on. She was drawn to policy and politics, but also to horses, so she converged her passions by double majoring in Zoology and Politics at Ohio Wesleyan. Eventually "following a boy" to graduate school at Stony Brook University and "falling in love" with the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL), she pursued doctoral training in genetics. While there, she represented CSHL and New York state during Capitol Hill Day. She first realized she was talented at advocating for science when someone asked for her business card, and she didn't have one! Passionate about science

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Letter from the Editor

"You are the solution," said Dr. Sharon Milgram, director of the Office of Intramural Training and Education. "...When we don't treat people right, we make a tiny rip in what makes [our work] amazing."

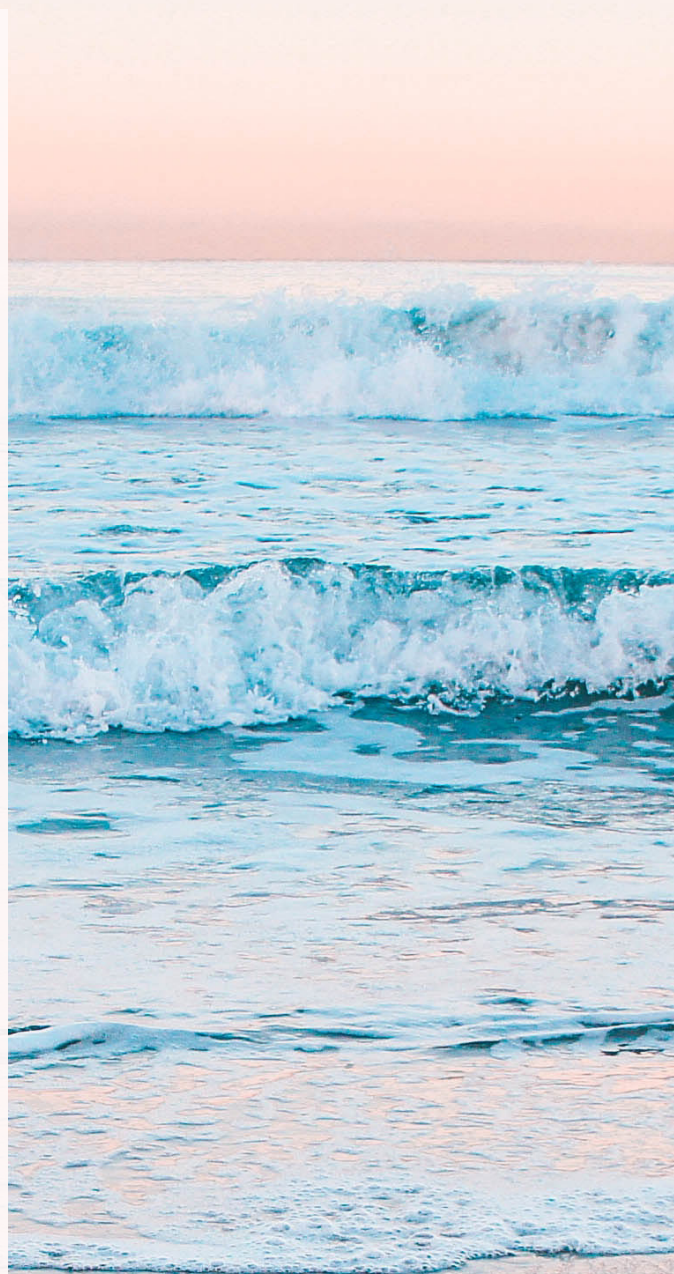
Dr. Milgram's words during the opening remarks of the 11th Annual NIH Career Symposium resonated with me. She stated that we hear about the importance of publishing and networking in a scientific career but then argued that taking care of those around you (and yourself) is an equally important, underappreciated part of training.

In honor of our eight-year anniversary of *The NICHD Connection*, let's make an effort to heed Dr. Milgram's advice. Are you taking care of your professional, physical, and mental well being? Do your actions help, or hinder, those around you? Are you moving toward or away from your personal life goals? These are all questions we can ask ourselves on a regular basis. And if you don't like the answers, you have a wealth of resources at your fingertips—like the NICHD Office of Education, for example.

In April, the NICHD Office of Education and Retreat Steering Committee hosted an outstanding Fourteenth Annual Fellows Retreat. Keeping with tradition, several NICHD fellows graciously volunteered to cover the event for the newsletter. I want to offer a big thank you to all of the fellows who made the [retreat recap](#) possible. And now I want to express an even bigger thank you to all of the fellows who have contributed to eight years (EIGHT YEARS, can you believe it?) of keeping NICHD fellows connected through this newsletter. The NICHD family never ceases to amaze me.

Your Editor in Chief,
Shana R. Spindler, PhD

Please send questions, comments, and ideas to our editor at Shana.Spindler@gmail.com.



Fourteenth Annual Fellows Retreat Recap

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and policy after her PhD, but not the “nitty-gritty life” of benchwork, she launched her new career at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine as a Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellow. Often Dr. Seger talked fondly of her “fairy job mother,” who played a pivotal role in the networking that led to her next positions at FasterCures and Thomson Reuters. Dr. Seger highlighted that she only applied for one job—the rest were obtained through networking.

Describing her current position at FASEB, she compared her daily life to “herding a bunch of cats: scientists, Congress, member societies, agency policies, and the public.” Finding consensus is often challenging, but it is also the most rewarding part of her job. While defining science policy as a constant cycle, she drew the loudest laugh in the room by comparing it to the dreaded KREBS cycle.

Dr. Seger’s main message to fellows was clear: “Paths are going to wander, do not expect a straight line.” She gave advice on how to kick-start a science policy career, naming helpful fellowships as faster paths, but not the sole ones. “Keeping informed on current events, participating in science policy groups, volunteering at a science museum, and contributing articles to newsletters,” she emphasized, are also meaningful experiences. More importantly, Dr. Seger advised fellows to recognize their transferable skills, such as subject matter expertise, analytical thought, and project management. Dr. Seger’s approachable and funny personality, combined with her love for horses, drew everyone’s attention to her concluding wisdom: “Have a plan, but be prepared to change it. Network, make connections, ask questions, and, above all, have fun!”

Retrotransposon Activation: A Genetic Arms Race

BY SUNA GULAY, PhD

Retrotransposons are ancient genetic elements with the ability to replicate and move to other locations in the genome via RNA intermediates. Their evolution, function and regulation are active areas of research.

Retrotransposons comprise a large fraction of mammalian genomes and can affect gene expression and genomic stability; as such their activation is tightly regulated. In fact, retrotransposons and the transcription factors that regulate them have been found to co-evolve together in what is known as the “arms race model,” preventing potential deleterious effects of retrotransposon activation. One such family of transcription factors is Kruppel-associated box zinc-finger proteins (KRAB-ZFPs), sequence-specific transcriptional repressors in mammals.



Gernot Wolf, PhD

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Fourteenth Annual Fellows Retreat Recap

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Dr. Gernot Wolf, a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Todd Macfarlan's lab, has systematically screened the target sequences of more than 100 KRAB-ZFPs by ChIP-sequencing (a way to look at protein-DNA interactions) to define this regulatory effect and to examine the co-evolution of these transcription factors and retrotransposons in mice. He observed that the target sequences map to known retrotransposons, and the deletions of 60 KRAB-ZFP clusters in embryonic stem cells result in retrotransposon activation. Dr. Wolf has constructed mouse models in which these clusters are deleted and observed a positive correlation with transposable element mobilization, indicating the evolution of KRAB-ZFPs specifically to suppress retrotransposons.

In essence, Dr. Wolf's work not only supports the evolutionary arms race model for the KRAB-ZFP epigenetic regulators of the mouse, but also has produced models that can be used to study phenotypes associated with retrotransposon reactivation under different environmental conditions.

Scavenger Hunt Inside the Brain!

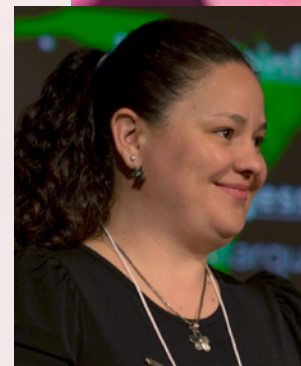
BY AMRITA MANDAL, PhD

Just like the ozone layer protects us from harmful UV rays, your brain has a protective layer called the meninges. Not only do the meninges protect your brain from external trauma, it also scavenges harmful waste and provides essential nutrients to the brain.

Dr. Marina Venero Galanternik, a postdoctoral fellow in the Weinstein lab, has identified a novel perivascular cell type in the meninges of zebrafish. Due to their morphology, close proximity to blood vessels, and scavenger nature, these cells appear to be a zebrafish equivalent to mammalian Fluorescent Granular Perithelial cells (FGPs). FGPs are brain perivascular cells, found in the cerebral cortex and leptomeningeal layers of the mammalian brain.

Using spectacular live imaging of zebrafish embryos, with molecular and developmental biology techniques, Dr. Galanternik unraveled the origin and function of these little-understood cells. Although the zebrafish FGPs appear to be macrophage-like in morphology, RNA sequencing and single-cell analysis revealed that these cells are more similar to lymphatic endothelium. Lineage tracing analysis has shown these cells transdifferentiate from the optic choroid vascular plexus, which lies deep inside the brain.

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Marina Venero
Galanternik, PhD

Fourteenth Annual Fellows Retreat Recap

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Dr. Galanternik's most recent work has identified a zebrafish mutant that completely lacks this novel cell type—an important tool to elucidate the function of these cells. She is currently working to characterize these mutants in order to better understand the role and regulation of this novel perivascular cell type in zebrafish. Since many devastating immune and age-related diseases are the result of failed removal of toxic waste, Dr. Galanternik's work may contribute to future treatment and prevention of related diseases.

The Pretty Important PI—Phosphatidylinositol, That Is

BY KELLY TOMINS

Phosphatidylinositol (PI) is an important phospholipid with known roles in membrane trafficking, intracellular signaling, and cell metabolism. Differential phosphorylation of this molecule enables it to have distinct regulatory roles and membrane distributions. Surprisingly—given its wide-ranging roles in the cell—researchers have lacked reagents to visualize the localization of precursor PI within the subcellular membranes of intact cells. **Dr. Joshua Pemberton**, a postdoctoral fellow in the Balla lab, studies the biosynthesis of PI. Since arriving at the NICHD, Dr. Pemberton has created a molecular toolkit of fluorescently-labeled enzymes that allow him to visualize PI within the cell and acutely manipulate PI levels at targeted organelles.



Joshua Pemberton, PhD

Dr. Pemberton's project has not been without challenges. To visualize membrane-embedded PI, he fused GFP to a protein known to bind and breakdown PI lipids, but expression of the protein was too toxic for cells. To combat this, Dr. Pemberton created a mutant of the protein that would still bind to PI, but not break it down. The cells survived, allowing him to visualize PI within living cells for the first time. He found that PI is concentrated within the membranes of the Golgi, mitochondria, and peroxisomes. Since the enzyme responsible for the synthesis of PI is anchored within the ER, these new findings indicate special roles for these unique pools of PI lipids in other organelle compartments.

Dr. Pemberton next wanted to create a way to manipulate PI levels at specific target membranes. He turned to his mutant protein again, this time creating a version that maintained catalytic activity, but bound inefficiently to membrane surfaces. Using a chemically-induced proximity system that allows for dimerization of proteins with complementary protein tags (which he placed on distinct membranes and his mutant protein), Dr. Pemberton showed that when PI is hydrolyzed on mitochondrial membranes, the morphology of the mitochondria vastly changes. Overall, these novel molecular tools provide the foundation for exciting new studies that will enhance our understanding of the importance of PI for membrane trafficking and biogenesis.

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Fourteenth Annual Fellows Retreat Recap

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Molecular Crowdsourcing to Avoid Molecular Crowds

BY ADRIENNE T. PERKINS



Dani Cai, PhD

There are two kinds of people in this world: those who love crowds and those who avoid crowds like the plague. Enter the protein YAP1, a transcriptional regulator involved in cell proliferation and cancer; it hates to be crowded. So when things get cramped in the cytoplasm, how does YAP1 deal? It gets the heck out of there to chill in the nucleus. But just what happens in the cytoplasm to make YAP1 skedaddle, and how does YAP1 get to the nucleus? **Dr. Dani Cai**, a postdoctoral fellow under the mentorship of Drs. Lippincott-Schwartz and Bonifacino, sought to elucidate the mechanism.

YAP1 is known to be a mechanosensitive protein. When cells flatten on stiff surfaces, YAP1 translocates to the nucleus. Dr. Cai hypothesized that an increase in macromolecular crowding activates the relocation of YAP1. When she decreased cellular volume in live cells with hyperosmotic solution (increasing cellular crowding), she found that GFP-tagged YAP1 formed puncta that localized to the nucleus. Upon washing the cells to increase cellular volume, the puncta disappeared.

As it turned out, YAP1 has liquid-like properties and can coalesce in a liquid phase—this is known as phase separation—and the puncta formed were actually droplets of YAP1. Dr. Cai found that TEAD1, a transcription factor associated with super enhancers, is present in the YAP1 droplets and that the droplets most likely form at super enhancers within the genome. Yet, the YAP1 droplets do not colocalize with markers from other nuclear body droplets, and are therefore unique.

Dr. Cai next showed that deletion of the YAP1 transcription activation domain abolished droplet formation, nuclear localization, and YAP1's effect as a transcriptional regulator. Collectively, these data represent a novel mechanism for YAP1 and bolster support for phase separation of specific cellular components as more than a parlor trick, but rather a bona fide phenomenon with functional and mechanistic consequences in the cell.

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Fourteenth Annual Fellows Retreat Recap

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A Quick Recap for Career Success

BY CHRISTA VENTRESCA

"This is it," **Dr. Philip Ryan** joked as he showed a simple PowerPoint slide, stating that he had 15 minutes for his talk and had to cut it down. Dr. Ryan, Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) Deputy Director for Graduate Programs and Student Services, presented the afternoon career talk "Quick Tips for Career Success," a great, short presentation, peppered with personal anecdotes and tips to be successful in science. Dr. Ryan speaks from experience. He holds a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences and a PhD in Genetics, which he earned through the NIH Graduate Partnership Program and George Washington University.

The talk opened with the simple idea of having a plan. Dr. Ryan emphasized that you should consider your whole self in your plan (scientists tend to take better care of their experimental subjects than themselves). The plan should include clear expectations, strategies for maintaining visibility in your field, career development opportunities, communication practice, and good mentors to help build your professional network.

There are many resources available to fellows at the NIH if you need help forming this plan. Specifically, Dr. Ryan touched on the Workplace Dynamics seminar series, offered through OITE. He commented that this series helped him communicate with his mentor, and he highly recommended it. OITE also offers career counseling; three career counselors are available—each of them are dedicated to the life sciences.

Dr. Ryan focused the bulk of his talk on mentorship. Mentors are people who pass on their knowledge and expertise. They can be anyone within the lab or outside of it, but a great way to find mentors is through networking. Ideally, you will have multiple mentors, to get diverse perspectives and insights into different career paths. Dr. Ryan shared that during his graduate research his mice became sterile. Experienced primarily in genetics, he had to find another mentor to help him gain experience in biochemistry and complete his work.

So how do you select a strong mentor? Dr. Ryan recommended asking four different questions:

1. Does this person have the expertise I need?
2. Can we connect?
3. Is there a good mix of positive feedback and constructive criticism?
4. Will this person make time for me?

At the end of his talk, Dr. Ryan left us with the three things that will never fail you: work hard, work smart, and have fun.



Philip Ryan, PhD

Meet Our New Fellows

We are happy to welcome new fellows to the NICHD family. If you arrived recently at the NICHD and would like us to introduce you in our quarterly “Meet Our New Fellows” column, please contact our editor, Dr. Shana Spindler, at Shana.Spindler@gmail.com.



DR. SONU SINGH

Postdoctoral Fellow

Home city: Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

Graduate school: CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow-India

NICHD mentor: Dr. Andres Buonanno

Area of research: I study the molecular and cellular mechanisms that regulate the Neuregulin (NRG)-ErbB signaling pathway in neurons.

The Rep Report

By Suna Gulay, PhD

As the current NICHD Basic Sciences Representative, I represent NICHD postdoctoral fellows at the FelCom meeting every month and share the latest news with you here. Do you have a concern or question that you want brought up at the next meeting? Contact me at suna.gulay@nih.gov!



FelCom is continuing its efforts to share professional events and information regarding life in the D.C. metro area (such as social events, roommate ads, and furniture sales) on social media platforms for all NIH postdoctoral fellows. This will be similar to Club PCR for postbacs and GS-Underground for graduate students. The project is still in its infancy, so please don't hesitate to share your input with me, or with FelCom co-chairs [Eric Refsland](#) and [Scott Norberg](#). To gain leadership and communication skills, consider joining the Postdoc Social Hub Committee as a co-chair.

FelCom is excited to announce that the National Postdoc Association (NPA) FelCom liaison, Dr. Didier Chalhoub, won the best poster award at the NPA conference in April with his poster on the Visiting Fellows Committee (VFC) initiative "Science Voices from Home." This event series notifies NIH fellows about professional opportunities abroad. Brazil was in the spotlight in May. Stay tuned for Science Voices from Australia next.

Two positions are open on the VFC if you're interested in working with this active committee and gaining leadership experience. One position is available on the Brown Bag seminar team. This team organizes bimonthly seminars covering topics such as U.S. taxes and NIH Federal Credit Union information. Contact [Randi Parks](#) for more information. The second available position is the VFC website administrator on the Communication team. Contact co-chairs [Ulrike Boehm](#) and [Daphnée Villoing](#) for more information.

New openings on FelCom are frequently advertised in the [FELLOW-L listserv](#), so please sign up for this email list to hear about the latest opportunities.



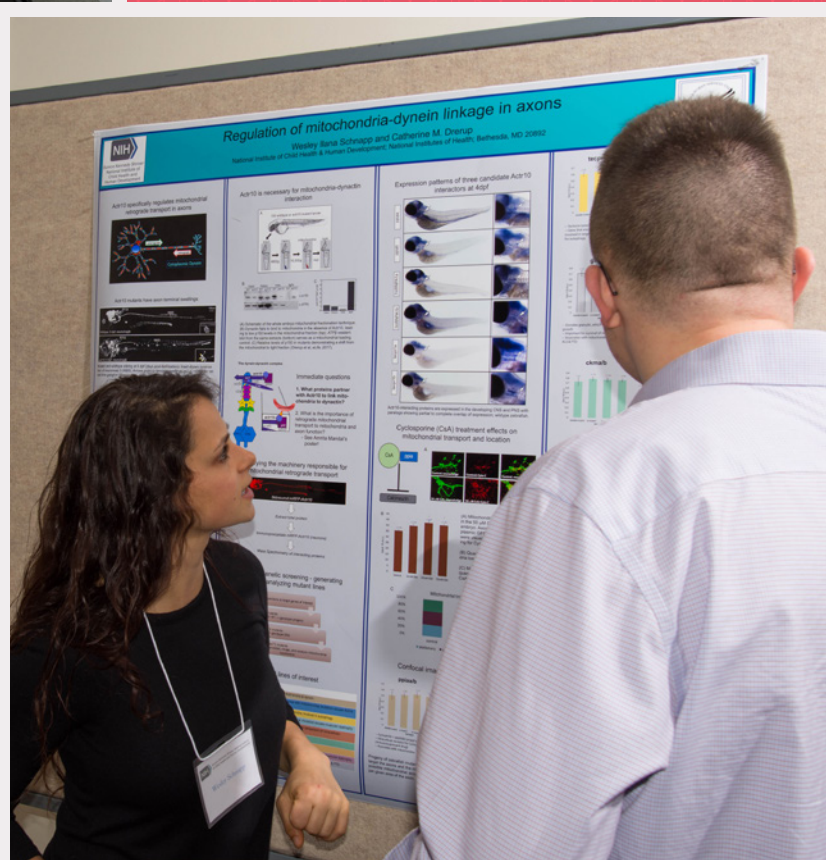
Life Outside Lab

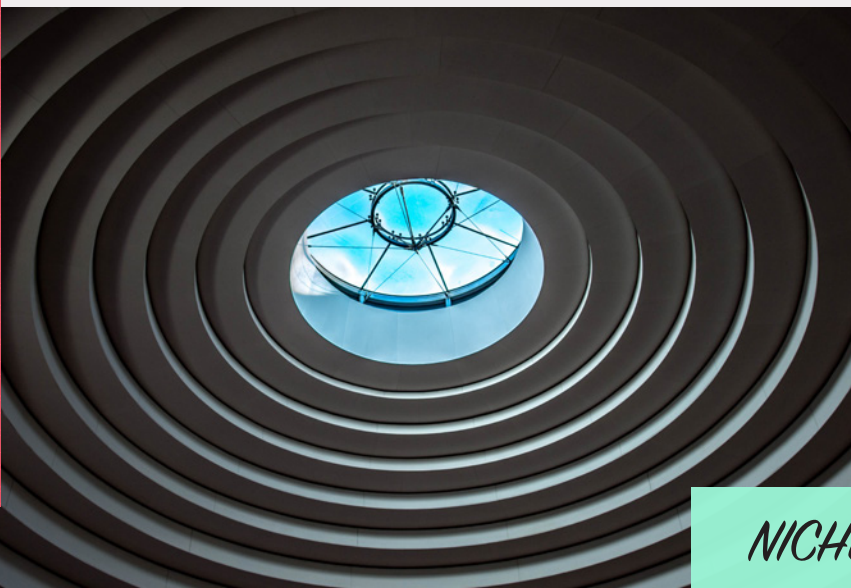
NICHD Fourteenth Annual Meeting of Postdoctoral, Clinical, and Visiting Fellows and Graduate Students

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

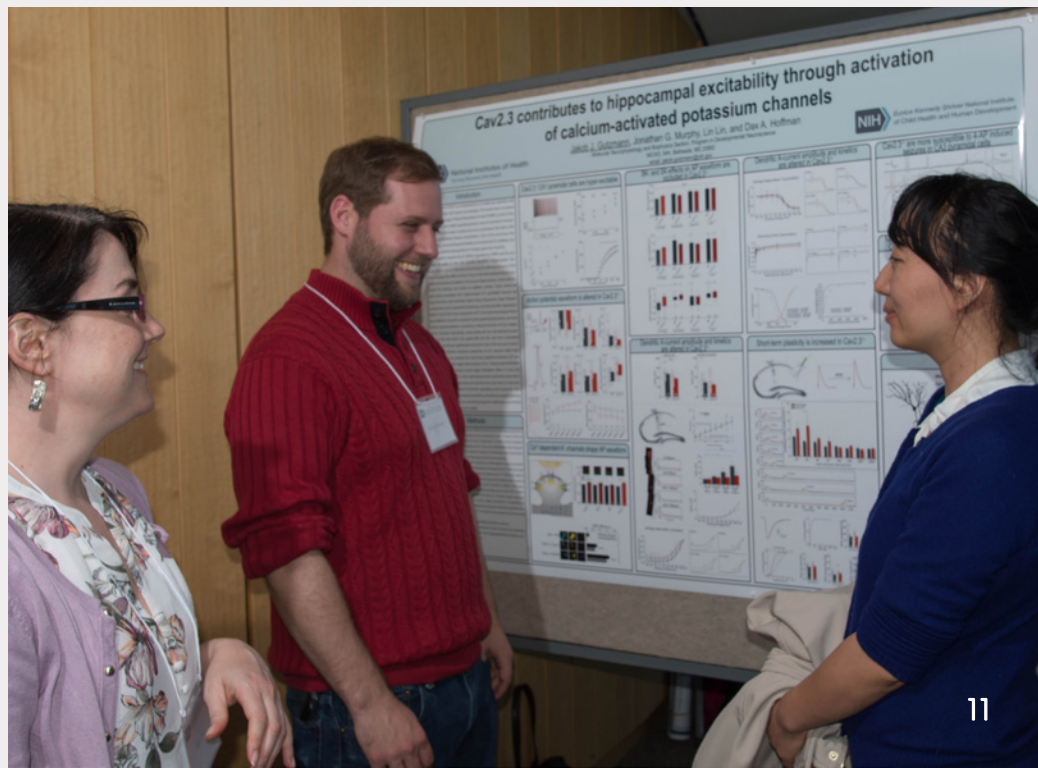
APRIL 20, 2018

PHOTOS BY JEREMY SWAN





NICHD Fourteenth Annual Fellows Retreat



Upcoming NIH-Wide Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) Events

For more information and registration, please visit [Upcoming OITE Events](#).

Planning a Successful NIH Summer Internship (Fridays, June 8, 15, 22)

Essential Leadership Skills for Future Scientists and Health Care Professionals (Wednesday, June 13)

Graduate School Overview (Thursday, June 14)

Workplace Dynamics I/II: Self-Awareness, the Key to Professional Success (Monday, June 18)

Speaking Up: How to Ask for What You Need in the Lab and in Life (Tuesday, June 19)

Postbac Seminar Series (Tuesday, June 19)

Medical School Overview (Tuesday, June 19)

Building Resilience: A Key to Success in Research and Educational Environments (Friday, June 22)

Summer Science Boot Camp (Monday, June 25 and Friday, June 29)

Ethics in Research Training for Summer Interns (Wednesday, June 27)

Workplace Dynamics III: Conflict & Feedback (Friday, June 29)

Get Cool and Get Connected (Popsicles!) (Friday, June 29)

June Announcements

2018 MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS: ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS NOW!

Do you have an outstanding mentor?

The time has come for you to nominate your fellow or PI for the **2018 NICHD Mentor of the Year Awards**. This is your chance to recognize an individual in the Division of Intramural Research (DIR) whose mentoring has made a difference in your life at the NIH!

Below is the link to obtain information about the NICHD's two annual intramural Mentor of the Year Awards, one for a *fellow*, and one for an *investigator*. Please submit your nomination form and a 500-word (maximum) narrative electronically to Dr. Yvette Pittman (yvette.pittman@nih.gov). *The submission deadline is Monday, July 30.*

Awardees will be announced at the NICHD DIR & DIPHR Scientific Retreat on Tuesday, September 4.

Please contact the Office of Education if you have any questions about the nomination instructions or selection process.

<https://science.nichd.nih.gov/confluence/display/fellows/Mentor+of+the+Year+Awards>



CONGRATS TO OUR 2018 NICHD BEST POSTBAC POSTER WINNERS

During the 2018 Postbac Poster Day on May 2, 2018, NICHD postdocs and graduate students selected the four top postbac poster presentations from our institute. The judging criteria were based on the fellow's knowledge of the lab's research, the fellow's ability to describe the project clearly, and the design and layout of the poster, highlighting hypothesis-driven questions.

Congratulations to the 2018 NICHD "Best" postbac poster winners!

- » Jillian Belgrad (Fields lab)
- » Anne Davidson (Machner lab)
- » Brian Kim (Stopfer lab)
- » Bruna Viana (Pacak lab)

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June Announcements

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THE 2018 NIH-WIDE AWARDS FROM POSTBAC POSTER DAY

Congratulations to our postbacs who received an Outstanding Poster Award during the NIH-wide competition, hosted by the Office of Intramural Training and Education, during the 2018 Postbac Poster Day. The following NICHD postbacs authored posters that scored in the top 20 percent of all posters presented.

- » Oluwadamilola Bankole (Levin lab)
 - » Elizabeth Fishman (Pfeifer lab)
 - » Adrienne Foster (Bonifacino lab)
 - » Jacob Gluski (Le Pichon lab)
 - » Ciara Hu (Weinstein lab)
 - » Akansha Jain (Bonifacino lab)
- » Manuela Jaramillo (Yanovski lab)
 - » Michael Lee (Levin lab)
 - » Mitchell Lee (Machner lab)
 - » Lindsay Levine (Mumford lab)
 - » Areg Peltekian (Loh lab)

To see award recipients from other institutes, please visit https://www.training.nih.gov/postbac_poster_day_awards_no_year.

NICHD POSTBACS ON THE MOVE!

We are pleased to announce that our postbacs will attend a number of professional schools this coming school year.

Big congratulations to our postbacs on a job well done. Check out where they will be heading:

MD PROGRAMS	PhD PROGRAMS	MD/PhD PROGRAMS
University of Maryland Georgetown University Emory University Eastern Virginia Medical School University of Virginia University of Utah University of Pittsburg New University School of Medicine UMDNJ – New Jersey Medical School Cornell University University of California Los Angeles Wayne State University University of Pennsylvania	Stanford University Penn State University Johns Hopkins University University of Washington Berkley University California Institute of Technology	Washington University in St. Louis Harvard-MIT University of Texas Southwestern

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June Announcements

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Summer Workshops, Save the Dates!

INFORMATIONAL SESSION FOR FUTURE PRAT APPLICANTS

Friday, July 13, 11 a.m.

Building 31, Room 2A48

The NIGMS Postdoctoral Research Associate (PRAT) Program supports postdoctoral fellowships within the NIH Intramural Research Program. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States with no more than two years of postdoctoral experience at NIH by the time of appointment to the PRAT program.

The deadline is October 3. More information about the program can be found at <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Training/Pages/PRAT.aspx>.

Postdoc applicants must now apply with the NIH Fi2 funding mechanism, and all applications must be submitted via grants.gov.

If you are planning to apply, the Office of Education is offering this session to discuss in detail how to prepare for the application submission, and more importantly, provide you with some valuable documents.

Please email Dr. Yvette Pittman at yvette.pittman@nih.gov if you plan to attend.

PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOP: GIVING SCIENTIFIC TALKS

Friday, August 17, 10 a.m. – Noon

“Speaking about Science” is a highly interactive workshop led by public speaking coach Scott Morgan. The core of this workshop is a nine-step preparation process that ensures a clear and engaging talk for a variety of audiences. Learn strategies for improving your delivery of lab talks or giving presentations at big meetings.

Topics include: presenting data, identifying theme and focus, creating effective visual aids, and beginning and ending a talk. Participants in this program will also have the opportunity to schedule an individual one-hour coaching session prior to a scheduled presentation.

To register for this workshop, please email Dr. Yvette Pittman at yvette.pittman@nih.gov.

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June Announcements

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Summer Workshops, Save the Dates!

TRAINING SCIENTISTS AS PROJECT MANAGERS

The Office of Education will sponsor up to five NICHD fellows and graduate students to participate in a two-day FAES training course on project management. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Yvette Pittman (yvette.pittman@nih.gov) by Monday, July 9.

Please be sure your mentor supports your attendance since it requires two full days away from the lab.

More information about the FAES course is below:

**BioTech 71 | Project Management Training for Scientists | 2-Day Training
August 2-3**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Project management is the application of knowledge, skills, tools, and techniques to a broad range of activities in order to meet the requirements of the particular project. These results are defined in terms of four factors: cost, schedule, performance, and scope.

Cost is the budget allocated to the project, schedule is the timeline for the project's deliverables, scope is the magnitude of the job, and performance has to do with how well the team members do their work.

This two-day course provides a comprehensive introduction to the essential aspects of project management for scientists. The course will draw on relevant case studies and prepare participants to apply learning from the course in their organizations. Specifically, the course covers the following key areas:

1. Introduction to Project Management
2. Project Lifecycle
3. Initiation Phase
4. Introduction to Planning Phase – The Project Plan
5. Creating the Budget
6. Project Manager Responsibility vs. Team's Responsibility
7. Risk and Change Management

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June Announcements

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Summer Workshops, Save the Dates!

LUNCHTIME SESSION WITH TENURE-TRACK INVESTIGATORS

Upcoming event for fellows planning to apply for faculty positions.

This August, the Office of Education will be hosting four tenure-track investigators from the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of South Dakota, who will meet with fellows to give 15-minute chalk talks on their work, share their experiences, and answer questions about the academic application/interview process.

This will be an informal, small-group session. We want you to walk away from the discussion with a sense of what search committees are interested in, the types of questions they ask, tips for both phone and in-person interviews, what skills are most needed to be successful, and what you can do throughout your NIH training to be more prepared. Furthermore, this will be a great opportunity to gain insight about the transition from fellow to investigator, and to hear about day-to-day life on the tenure track.

Details for this event to follow soon—be sure to check the July newsletter announcements for more information. If you are interested in attending, please email Dr. Yvette Pittman at yvette.pittman@nih.gov.

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June Announcements

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Summer Workshops, Save the Dates!

WRITE WINNING NIH GRANT PROPOSALS

Tuesday, August 21, 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

This workshop will address both practical and conceptual aspects that are important to the proposal writing process. Attendees will receive the *"Grant Writer's Workbook"*—an invaluable, up-to-date reference tool for those who intend to write NIH grant proposals.

The way in which NIH research-grant proposals are both prepared and reviewed will be specifically covered in the seminar. Topics to be addressed include:

- » A detailed format for the preparation of the 12-page application
- » Description of how to prepare a compelling Specific Aims section
- » A discussion of funding the applications of New/Early Stage Investigators
- » Insights into which review criteria are most important
- » How to include review of literature and presentation of preliminary data in the Approach section
- » Tighter linkage of sections of the application to each of the five core review criteria

There are only 25 slots for NICHD fellows. If you would like to register, please email Dr. Yvette Pittman at yvette.pittman@nih.gov.

On the same day (August 21), NICHD has TWO slots for the afternoon session "Developing and Evaluating Specific Aims," from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

This will be a small-group, interactive session that focuses on writing the specific aims section of a grant (one-page limit). In order to participate in this session, you must submit your specific aims draft to the Office of Education by June 27. All participants will receive individual written feedback from Dr. Robertson.



A "Write Winning Grant Proposals" workshop from 2017

June Events

MONDAY, JUNE 4, 3:30 – 4:30 PM

Postbac Farewell

Bldg. 31, conference room 2A48 (A-wing, 2nd floor)

We want to celebrate your accomplishments and applaud you on your acceptances into professional school. This is a great opportunity for you to network with each other. Plus, there will be a raffle with gifts from the NIH store, and tasty desserts to enjoy!

Please RSVP to Dr. Yvette Pittman (yvette.pittman@nih.gov).

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

Preparing for the Academic Job Market

The Office of Education is excited to offer a new series this summer for anyone considering an academic career!

Two workshops (June 12) and individual coaching sessions (July 10 and 11) will be led by Lauren Celano, co-founder and CEO of [Propel Careers](#), a life sciences search and career development firm dedicated to networking, mentoring and career development.

Preparing for the Academic Job Search (10–11 a.m.): This workshop will cover ways you can build experiences during your postdoctoral training, all to enhance your competitiveness for an academic position (scientific collaborations, grant writing, teaching, service and leadership).

Preparing Application Materials for Academic Job Applications (2–4 p.m.): This workshop will discuss how to prepare your academic application materials (CV, research and teaching statements, and cover letter), including what information should be included in each document, and how to showcase your experiences for academic positions. Examples will also be provided.

INDIVIDUAL COACHING SESSIONS:

On **Tuesday, July 10**, and **Wednesday, July 11**, Lauren will be available for one-on-one coaching sessions with all postdocs interested in feedback or help with their job application materials (30-60 minutes in length). Sign-ups for coaching slots will be by email, beginning in late June.

If you would like to register for the workshops on June 12, please email Dr. Yvette Pittman at yvette.pittman@nih.gov. There are only 30 slots available.

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June Events

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THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

2018 Three-minute-Talk (TmT) Program: The Final Competition
Lipsett Auditorium

Imagine describing your research in less than three minutes. See how it's done!

We would like to invite everyone to our final TmT event for 2018, where our NICHD finalists (listed below) will present their research stories with others from NHGRI and NIDCR while competing for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the competition.

We look forward to seeing you all there!

2018 NICHD FINALISTS

Karen Plevock Haase (postdoctoral fellow, Dasso lab)

Larissa Erben (graduate student, Buonanno lab)

Jakob Gutzman (postdoctoral fellow, Hoffman lab)

Lindsey Friend (postdoctoral fellow, Serpe lab)

THREE-MINUTE TALKS

